which states that:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner <u>must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions</u>. [Emphasis added.]

Accordingly, it is urged that this Election of Species Requirement should be withdrawn and that an Action on the merits as to all of Claims 1-20 should be forthcoming.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Eckhard H. Kuesters

Registration No. 28,870

Attorney of Record

Raymond F. Cardillo, Jr. Registration No. 40,440

22850

EHK/RFC:jmp (703) 413-3000 Phone (703) 413-2220 Fax